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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

upon the

Health and Sanitary Conditions

of the

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1955

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NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

upon the

Health and Sanitary Conditions

of the

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1955

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1955

To the Chairman and Members of Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1955 regarding the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

It is also my pleasure and duty to pay tribute to my predecessor, Dr. H. F. Park, for the help and co-operation he has given me since my appointment in June, 1955.

The most notable feature of this Annual Report is the high infant mortality rate, 57.69 per 1,000 live births, compared with the National Rate of 24.9. The actual number of deaths is 3 out of 52 live births and 2 of them occurred within the first four weeks of life. This rate represents an increase over the 1954 figure (17.8).

The Stillbirth rate, on the other hand, has dropped and is much more satisfactory. The district rates for 1954, 1955 and for England and Wales, 1955, were 35.7, 18.7 and 23.2 per 1,000 registered births respectively.

Estimated Mid Year population is 4,310, a decrease of 70 in relation to the 1954 figure, and the number of births dropped from 56 to 52, a rate of 12.06 per 1,000 population, which is below the national average of 15.

Deaths registered during the year numbered 58, giving a rate of 13.45 per 1,000 population and showing an actual increase of 9 from 1954. Only 2 were caused by cancer, neither being due to lung cancer. The majority of deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulation.

Infectious diseases were mild, measles being most prevalent. The case of acute poliomyelitis occurred in Horncliffe and the child made a complete recovery. I am pleased to report that no case of tuberculosis was registered.

In conclusion, I would like to record my gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Council for their kindly consideration and to Mr. Senior and Mr. Peters for their help during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Richard Short.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district is 47,011 acres.

The number of inhabited houses is 1,514.

The rateable value is £19,785 and the sum represented by one penny rate is £80.

The estimated mid-year population is 4,310 and this figure is taken when calculating the Birth and Death Rates.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	25	24	49
Illegitimate	1	2	3
	26	26	52

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population 12.06

Still Births :

Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	1	—	1

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live births and stillbirths 18.86

Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks :

Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	2	1	3

Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks :

Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	2	—	2

All infants (per 1,000 live births) 57.69

Legitimate infants (per 1,000 legitimate births) 61.22

Illegitimate infants ... ... Nil

Deaths :

Male	Female	Total
26	32	58

Death rate per 1,000 of the population 13.45

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ... ... Nil

Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes ... ... Nil

Deaths from Cancer 2

Deaths from Measles ... ... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough ... ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea ... ... Nil

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Other)	—	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	—	—	—
,, ,, Lung ...	—	—	—
,, ,, Breast ...	—	—	—
,, ,, Uterus ...	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	—	1
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	4	6
Coronary Disease, Angina	5	3	8
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	—	2	2
Other Heart Disease	8	13	21
Other Circulatory Disease	2	1	3
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
Nephritis, Nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	1	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	3	4	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
	26	32	58

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	2
Whooping Cough	2
Diphtheria	—
Measles	139
Pneumonia	2
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1
Food Poisoning	—
Dysentery	—
Ophthalmic Neonatorum ...	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Smallpox	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—
Enteric Fever	—
Erysipelas	—
Tuberculosis	—

Annual Report of Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

1955

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations 1935-51, I herewith submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Public Health Act, 1936:		
Part Two. Sanitation and Buildings	54	
Part Three. Nuisances	8	
Part Four. Water Supplies	63	
Part Five. Notifiable Diseases	0	
Total Visits, etc. ...		125
Housing Act, 1936:		
Part Two. Inspection of Insanitary Houses ...		13
Housing Act, 1949:		
Part Two, Section 20. Improvement Grants. Visits in connection		32
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:		
Visits in connection with infestations and administration		10
Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928:		
Visits in connection with storage of petrol		30
Total ...		210
Other Visits and Inspections:		
1. Council House Repairs	250	
2. Tradesmen re above	32	
3. Building Bye-laws	54	
4. Town and Country Planning Act	44	
5. Miscellaneous Visits, Interviews, etc. ...	39	
Total ...		419
Total Visits, Inspections, Interviews, etc. ...		629

Number of Notices served during the Year:

Informal	10
Statutory	0

Water Samples for Analysis:

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Chemical	10	10	0
Bacteriological ...	10	8	2

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. 1, 2 and 3	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district ...	7	1508	253	1768	133
2. Number of properties as a result of :					
(a) Notifications	—	15	—	15	3
(b) Survey under the Act ...	7	1491	253	1751	130
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	—	—	—	—
3. Total inspections carried out, including re--inspections	7	1506	253	1766	133
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec.2) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats	5	181	5	191	28
(b) Mice ...	—	67	3	70	3
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4) treated by L.A.	5	148	—	153	2
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	5	148	—	153	2

COMMENTARY

REFUSE COLLECTION :

Refuse Collection and Disposal has been maintained satisfactorily, and even considering the limitation of the service, complaints have been few and mostly trivial.

WATER SUPPLIES :

During June of this year, the new Holy Island water supply scheme was completed, and throughout the remaining part of the year, has proceeded smoothly.

The Fenwick water supply scheme has progressed steadily throughout the year—the mains have been laid and the reservoir almost completed—and is expected to be operative by July, 1956.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES :

Schemes, so essential for sewering Holy Island and Cornhill Villages, have been prepared, but at present are awaiting Ministry approval.

HOLY ISLAND :

During 1954, the Causeway across part of the sands between Holy Island and the mainland was completed, with the result that all and sundry were able to cross over to the Island at suitable times of the tides, with their own transport. The Summer of this year, 1955, has been exceptionally good and, together with the novelty of crossing the sands, the drivers and passengers of hundreds of cars and 'buses took the opportunity. At times the Island became seriously and dangerously overcrowded, dangerous because of an outdated and unsatisfactory sewerage system. It is essential that a modern sewerage scheme be installed and a Public Convenience built at an early date.

PLANS :

During the year 65 plans were deposited with the District Council. All were approved.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—HOUSING ACT, 1949 :

During the year applications involving 23 separate houses were approved for Grant Aid.

MEAT INSPECTION :

There is one private licensed Slaughterhouse in the District catering for a scattered country trade. Throughout the year, the hygienic standard of the premises and the quality of the meat have been commendably high.

Animals Slaughtered.—Cattle, 104 ; Pigs, 32 ; Sheep, 175.

ICE CREAM :

There are eight premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream, but no premises for manufacture and sale. In all of the eight premises registered for sale, only pre-wrapped ice cream is sold.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

52, Ravensdowne,
Berwick-upon-Tweed.

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